

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 117 public bills, H.R. 8, 873–988; 5 private bills, H.R. 989–993; and 19 resolutions, H.J. Res. 22–26; H. Con. Res. 70–78, and H. Res. 119–123, were introduced. **Pages H790–97**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H797–98**

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Capito to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H721**

Class Action Fairness Act of 2005: The House passed S. 5, to amend the procedures that apply to consideration of interstate class actions to assure fairer outcomes for class members and defendants, by a yea-and-nay vote of 279 yeas to 149 nays, Roll No. 38. **Pages H723–55**

Rejected the Brown (OH) motion to commit the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary with instructions to report the bill back to the House forthwith with amendments, by a recorded vote of 175 yeas to 249 noes, Roll No. 37. **Pages H752–54**

Rejected the Conyers amendment in the nature of a substitute by a yea-and-nay vote of 178 yeas to 247 nays, Roll No. 36. **Pages H743–52**

H. Res. 96, the rule providing for consideration of the bill was agreed to yesterday, February 16.

Suspension: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure which was debated yesterday, February 16:

Honoring the life and legacy for former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri: H. Res. 91, amended, honoring the life and legacy of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 39. **Pages H755–56**

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: condemning the terrorist bombing attack that occurred on February 14, 2005, in Beirut, Lebanon, that killed former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri and killed and wounded others. **Page H756**

Late Report: Agreed that the Committee on House Administration have until midnight on Thursday, February 24 to file a report to accompany H.R. 841, to require States to hold special elections to fill vacancies in the House of Representatives not later than 45 days after the vacancy is announced by the Speaker of the House of Representatives in extraordinary circumstances. **Page H756**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 21, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in H. Con. Res. 66, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution. **Page H756**

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, March 2. **Page H756**

Honoring the soldiers of the Army's Black Corps of Engineers during WWII: By unanimous consent, the House agreed to H. Con. Res. 67, honoring the soldiers of the Army's Black Corps of Engineers for their contributions in constructing the Alaska-Canada highway during World War II and recognizing the importance of these contributions to the subsequent integration of the military. **Pages H756–57**

Speaker pro tempore: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Tom Davis (VA) to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through Tuesday, March 1. **Page H757**

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Representatives Cardin, Slaughter, Hastings (FL), and McIntyre. **Page H757**

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he transmitted the 2005 Economic Report of the President—referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered printed (H. Doc. 109–1). **Pages H758–59**

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H721.

Senate Referral: S. 384 was referred to the Committee on Government Reform. **Page H789**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H752, H754, H755, and H755–56. There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and at 5:15 p.m., stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 21, unless it sooner receives a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence with H. Con. Res. 66, in which case the House shall stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, March 1.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Office of the Inspector General, Agriculture. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Agriculture: Phyllis K. Fong, Inspector General; Joyce Fleischman, Deputy Inspector General; Robert Young, Assistant Inspector General, Audit; Mark Woods, Assistant Inspector General, Investigations; Walt Kowal, Director, Business Management and Procurement; and Dennis Kaplan, Deputy Director, Budget, Legislation and Regulatory Systems.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a hearing on the Secretary of Defense. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary; GEN Richard B. Myers, USAF, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Tina W. Jonas, Under Secretary, Comptroller.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on The Department of Homeland Security held a hearing on Department of Homeland Security Management and Operations. Testimony was heard from Adm. James Loy, Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Testimony was heard from Kathleen Cox, President and CEO, Corporation for Public Broadcasting; Pat Mitchell, President and CEO, Public Broadcasting Service; and Kevin Klose, President and CEO, National Public Radio.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense budget request for the Department of the Navy. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Navy: Gordon R. England, Secretary; ADM Vernon E. Clark, USN, Chief of Naval Operations; and GEN Michael W. Hagee, USMC, Commandant, U.S. Marine Corps.

DOMESTIC ENTITLEMENTS

Committee on the Budget: Held a hearing on Domestic Entitlements: Meeting the Needs. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

JOB TRAINING IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2005

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 27, Job Training Improvement Act of 2005.

HEALTH CARE PRIORITIES FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Held a hearing entitled: "A Review of the Administration's FY 2006 Health Care Priorities." Testimony was heard from Michael O. Leavitt, Secretary of Health and Human Services.

DIGITAL TELEVISION TRANSITION

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet, hearing entitled "The Role of Technology in Achieving a Hard Deadline for the DTV Transition." Testimony was heard from Mark L. Goldstein, Director, Physical Infrastructure Issues, GAO; and public witnesses.

MONETARY POLICY

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing on Monetary Policy and the State of the Economy. Testimony was heard from Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System.

Prior to the hearing, the Committee met to consider pending Committee business.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE; BUDGET VIEWS AND ESTIMATES; WOUNDED ARMY GUARD RESERVE FORCES

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported H. Res. 41, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that a day should be established as "National Tartan Day" to recognize the outstanding achievements and contributions made by Scottish-Americans to the United States.

The Committee approved Budget Views and Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006 for submission to the Committee on the Budget.

The Committee also held a hearing entitled "Wounded Army Guard Reserve Forces: Increasing the Capacity to Care." Testimony was heard from Gregory D. Kutz, Director, Financial Management and Assurance, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Ellen Embrey, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Employment Health; Daniel Denning, Acting Assistant Secretary, Army, Manpower and Reserve Affairs; LTG Franklin L. Hagenbeck, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1; LTG